

REMARKS

By this paper, the Claims 2-7 have been canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention.

In the Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Maunula in view of Buchanan. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of reducing bulk NO_x and particulates in the exhaust of a hydrocarbon-burning, internal combustion engine. The invention includes an interdigitated ceramic filter having NO_x adsorbent material and a NO_x reduction catalyst disposed on or in the filter.

Maunula is directed to a system and method for purifying exhaust gases. The Maunula system includes an oxidation catalyst, a particle separator and a NO_x adsorption catalyst which are generally arranged in a series. Although the reference discloses in paragraph [0047] that the particle trap may be coated with an oxidation and/or a NO_x adsorption catalyst, all of the other teachings of the reference, including the Examples, have the various elements arranged in a series. The gas is purified by alternating between lean and rich fuel mixtures. As noted by the Examiner, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Maunula reference of using syngas to regenerate the NO_x adsorbing material.

The Buchanan reference is directed to a process for removing SO_x, CO and NO_x from flue gases. As noted by the Examiner, this patent discloses in column 7 that syngas will be used as a reducing gas. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Buchanan reference of using syngas to regenerate a NO_x adsorbing material used to treat the exhaust from an internal combustion engine.

Further, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Maunula reference of how a separate reducing gas could be used in that system to regenerate the NO_x adsorption catalyst. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion of how the syngas of Buchanan could be used in Maunula.

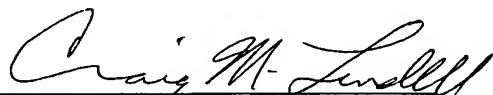
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no teaching or suggestion as to how the teachings of the two references can be combined to obtain Applicant's claimed invention. Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 1 as being obvious over these references is improper.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the claim is in condition for allowance and favorable consideration by the Examiner is requested. Should the Examiner

find any impediment to the allowance of this case which could be corrected by a telephone interview with the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to initiate such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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